

28 December 1967

Dear Mr. Nitze,

Further to our conversation on the telephone of yesterday concerning the study proposed by the Bureau of the Budget for satellite launch schedules, I am enclosing a copy of a draft of a letter which I had intended to send to the Director of the Bureau of the Budget.

John Bross has urged me not to do this inasmuch as the decision is in your hands.

I strongly feel that the existing machinery, creaky though it may be in some respects, is quite adequate to fulfill the study requirement and that the Bureau of the Budget should confine itself to a review of program decisions of this sort rather than attempt to influence them in their formative stages. Insofar as USIB is concerned, I feel sure that its Chairman and membership would support this view.

With warmest personal regards and best wishes for the New Year to you and Phyllis.

Sincerely,

Signed: Ruf

Rufus Taylor
Vice Admiral, U. S. Navy
Acting Director

NRO and OSD
review(s) completed.

DD/S&T
FILE COPY

The Honorable Paul H. Nitze
Deputy Secretary of Defense
Department of Defense
Washington, D. C.

DDCI/mfb

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[REDACTED]
DRAFT:RT:mfb 28 Dec 67

Dear Mr. Schultze:

In his absence I am taking the liberty of responding to your note of 21 December to Dick Helms.

I believe there must be some misunderstanding.

I attended the Executive Committee meeting in question and there was no discussion of your letter to Mr. McNamara. There was a discussion of [REDACTED] in which

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I stated that USIB is accelerating its continuing study of requirements and is expected to have a definitive statement of them by the middle of January. It would then be expected that the NRO would translate these requirements into launch schedules and ;vehicle requirements. From this an analysis

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of costs and alternatives could be derived for consideration by
the ExCom.

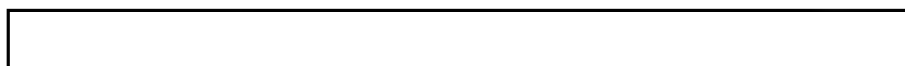
To the extent that it is pertinent to their function
the USIB is taking into account the anticipated improvement in

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techniques. I feel sure that the NRO will find the USIB report
adequate for the development of programs together with
feasible alternatives necessary to meet essential requirements.

It would appear to me, therefore, that the elements
needed for a sensible decision on this matter can be expected to
be ready in good time and in proper form for consideration well
before the time for determination of the need for future procurement.



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It is my feeling, therefore, that the type of study you propose is well underway and we need only coordinate as necessary with your office as we go along.

I have expressed these views to Mr. Nitze by telephone.

It may well be that, on reflection, he ~~and~~, Mr. Helms and Mr. McNamara may have quite contrary views. In this connection, when he left on vacation, Dick was unaware of your proposal and neither he, I, or any of our staff felt at that time that there was any requirement to extend our efforts beyond what I have described above. My own view is that the additional study you propose will be apt to duplicate and complicate what we are already doing.

RT

cc: Mr. Nitze
Dr. Horning *(Not sent)*

TOP SECRET